COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES

SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT

OFFICE CORRESPONDENCE

DATE:
December 21, 1988
FILE NO.
088-03835-3667-181

FROM: OLIVER TAYLOR, CHIEF
DETECTIVE DIVISION

TO: SHERMAN BLOCK
SHERIFF

SUBJECT: DEPUTY INVOLVED SHOOTING/DEPUTY INJURED/NARCOTIC LAW VIOLATIONS (City of Los Angeles)

V: WARD, Anthony MB/27 Deputy [redacted]
(Assigned to the Narcotics Bureau)

L: [redacted] West 92nd Street
Los Angeles

T: 1400 Hours, 12-20-88

DEPUTIES INVOLVED

DIDION, Richard MW/38 Sergeant [redacted]

[redacted]

(Fired two rounds of Department issued ammunition from his Department issued Beretta, Model 92F, 9mm pistol.)

[redacted]

☐ SHERIFF	☐ CHIEF - F.O.R. II	☐ CHIEF DETECTIVES	☐ CAPT HOMICIDE
☐ UNDERSHERIFF	☐ CHIEF - F.O.R. III	☐ CDR. DETECTIVES	☐ CAPT. NARCOTICS
☐ ASSISTANT SHERIFF	☐ CHIEF - TECH. SERV.	☐ CAPT. CENTRAL INVEST.	☐ INFORMATION BUREAU
☐ CHIEF - ADMIN. DIV.	☐ CHIEF - COURT SERVS. DIV.	☐ CAPT. JUV. INVEST.	☐ CONTRACT LAW
☐ CHIEF - CUSTODY DIV.	☐ COMMANDER -	☐ CAPT. COMM. CRIMES	☐ PSYCHOLOGICAL SERVICES
☐ CHIEF - F.O.R. I	☐ CAPTAIN -	☐ CAPT. VICE	☐

SH-AD-539 (Rev. 3-87)

EDNER, John MW/30 Deputy [redacted]

[redacted]

(Fired one round of Department issued ammunition from his Department issued Beretta, Model 92F, 9mm pistol.)

RHAMBO, Cecil MB/29 Deputy [redacted]


[redacted]

(Fired four rounds of Department issued ammunition from a Department issued Beretta, Model 92F, 9mm pistol.)

Acting Captain Darrell Gordon, Homicide Bureau, advises:

The following information is fragmentary and has not been completely verified. It is based in part on hearsay and is intended for early informational use rather than being a formal investigative report.

Deputy Ward was wounded in the right leg when he was mistaken for an armed suspect during an undercover narcotic operation.

Deputy Ward, his partner, Deputy Robert Taylor, and nine other members of the Narcotics Bureau were involved in a narcotic "buy-bust" operation. Deputy Taylor left the location to signal the back-up units to converge on the house to arrest the suspects. Deputy Taylor went to his undercover vehicle and Deputy Ward remained at the side of the house to prevent the escape of the suspects.

When the back-up units drove up in front of the location, Deputy Ward heard someone inside the house shout, "It's the cops! Get the stuff out the back!" Deputy Ward ran to the rear of the house when he heard someone yell, "He's got a gun! He's got a gun!" Deputy Ward then heard gunshots and felt pain in his right leg.

Deputy Rhambo, one of the back-up people, was standing in a vacant lot just east of the location. Deputy Rhambo stated he saw two men, one who had a gun in his hand, run down a walkway to the rear of the house. Deputy Rhambo yelled, "He's got a gun! He's got a gun!" When the armed man turned towards him, Deputy Rhambo believed the man was preparing to fire at him. Deputy Rhambo fired four shots, Sergeant Didion fired two shots and Deputy Edner fired one shot. One of the rounds struck Deputy Ward in his right leg. Three of the seven rounds were unaccounted for. No other injuries were reported.

After the shooting, it was discovered that Deputy Ward had put on a jacket that he had not worn during an earlier briefing, thus altering his appearance.

Deputies Rhambo and Edner were 75 feet away from the armed man they were shooting at and did not recognize him as being a deputy.

Sergeant Didion did not see Deputy Ward, but fired at a suspect who was climbing a fence at the rear of the location. It was that suspect who Sergeant Didion believed was the armed person. That suspect was taken into custody and has not been hit.

All of the weapons that were fired will be submitted to the Sheriff's Criminalistics Laboratory for testing.

Five suspects were arrested for Sale of a Controlled Substance and five kilograms of cocaine were seized. No suspect weapons were recovered.

Deputy Ward was transported to Daniel Freeman Hospital, where he was treated for a gunshot wound to the right thigh and a fracture of the right femur. He was admitted and will undergo surgery on December 21, 1988. His condition is listed as serious, but stable.

The Information Bureau was notified for an operational log entry and press release.

LR:GL:sak